

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 117300
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:JDAVIDOW:LAR

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

AF/S:DKPETTERSON

AF:RMMOOSE

S/P:MSPIEGEL

:AMB. NEWSOM

S/S-O :SRPVALERGA

-----046202 082333Z /64

O 082306Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117300

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA; SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO OWEN

. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY
TO DAVID OWEN IN RESPONSE TO OWEN'S LETTER TO HIM OF MAY 2
(SEPTEL).

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR DAVID: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF MAY 2. JOHNNY
GRAHAM WILL, OF COURSE, ALREADY HAVE INFORMED YOU OF HIS
CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON.

IN THEIR RECENT COMMUNICATIONS TO PRESIDENT CARTER, NYERERE,
KAUNDA AND OBASANJO TAKE THE POSITION THAT A MOMENTUM OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 117300

SORTS WAS DEVELOPED AT DAR ES SALAAM WHICH MUST BE BUILT
UPON. THOUGH THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS OVERSTATE THE "CON-
CESSIONS" OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE BREADTH OF AGRE-
EMENT BETWEEN US AND NKOMO AND MUGABE, IT IS NEVERTHELESS
IMPORTANT THAT WE UNDERTAKE SOME ACTIVITY QUICKLY TO RESPOND
TO THEIR URGINGS. IN THIS REGARD, I AGREE THAT THE LOW/
GRAHAM COMBINATION REPRESENTS THE BEST WAY TO PURSUE OUR

OBJECTIVE OF ARRANGING A MEETING OF ALL THE PARTIES AT THIS TIME. WE MUST CONTINUALLY, BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, CAST THEIR EFFORTS AS SETTING THE STAGE FOR AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING.

I AGREE WITH YOU THAT WE MUST DO SOMETHING TO HELP THE BISHOP FROM DAMAGING HIMSELF FURTHER. HIS VISIT TO BOTSWANA WAS A GOOD SIGN, THOUGH WE HAVE RECEIVED CONTRADICTORY REPORTS ON WHAT HE ACTUALLY SAID. APPARENTLY, HE TOLD PRESIDENT KHAMA THAT HE WOULD NOT ATTEND AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING, BUT SOFTENED THIS LINE IN CONVERSATION WITH PARTY FAITHFUL IN GABORONE. THE LATTER REPORT MAY BE INACCURATE. BUT, GIVEN THE BISHOP'S HISTORY OF VACILLATION, I AM PREPARED TO ASSUME THAT BOTH REPORTS ARE TRUE AND THAT HE IS UNSURE HIMSELF OF WHERE HE SHOULD BE GOING. THE HOVE AFFAIR AND THE INFIGHTING FOLLOWING THE AMNESTY ANNOUNCEMENT ARE SYMPTOMATIC OF THE INHERENT TENSIONS WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. EVEN IF THESE EPIISODES ARE SOMEHOW PAPERED OVER, I EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE OTHER SIMILAR INCIDENTS.

WE MUST GET THE WORD TO THE BISHOP THAT HIS PRESENT COURSE MAY SPELL DISASTER AND THAT OUR PROPOSALS OFFER HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING FOR POLITICAL POWER WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. IN A VERY TENTATIVE FASHION WE HAVE RAISED

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THE ISSUE OF AFRICAN STATES REACHING OUT TO REASSURE THE BISHOP WITH THE ZAMBIANS, TANZANIANS AND NIGERIANS. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, REFRAINED FROM MAKING ANY FORMAL SUGGESTIONS IN THIS REGARD. IT MAY BE A TOPIC WHICH STEVE AND JOHNNY

WILL WANT TO EXPLORE MORE FULLY.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BEFORE GRAHAM AND LOW TRAVEL TO SOUTHERN AFRICA THEY ARE GIVEN A FIRM UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THEY SHOULD DISCUSS WITH EACH OF THE PARTIES. THEIR EFFORTS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL TO THE DEGREE THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO CONVINCE THE PARTIES THAT THEY ARE NOT SIMPLY ENGAGED IN A SHOW, BUT ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. OBVIOUSLY, WE NEED FURTHER CONSULTATION AMONG OURSELVES TO DETERMINE THE LINE THEY SHOULD TAKE IN THEIR VARIOUS APPROACHES. STEVE WILL STOP IN LONDON ON MAY 12 ON HIS WAY BACK TO THE UNITED STATES IN ADVANCE OF THE KAUNDA VISIT. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF BEFORE THAT TIME YOU COULD LET US HAVE YOUR THINKING ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE GRAHAM/LOW TEAM.

IN THIS REGARD, I WONDER IF YOU HAVE GIVEN MORE THOUGHT TO

THE PROPOSALS WE DISCUSSED IN LONDON WHICH WE MIGHT OFFER
AS A WAY OF ADDRESSING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S CONCERN OVER
THE POLICE ISSUE. THE MORE I THINK ABOUT SUGGESTING
SIGNIFICANT RECRUITMENT OF PATRIOTIC FRONT SUPPORTERS INTO
THE POLICE FOR TRAINING DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD,

THE MORE I BELIEVE THAT THIS IDEA HAS MERIT AND IS WORTH
PURSUING. AS WE NOTED IN LONDON, WE WOULD ALSO WANT TO
GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING UP
THE SIZE OF THE UN CIVILIAN POLICE OBSERVER FORCE. WE
MAY WANT TO DISCUSS OTHER POSSIBLE APPROACHES ON THIS
ISSUE AS WE WORK TOGETHER IN THE COMING WEEKS TO DEFINE
THE TASKS AND TACTICS OF THE GRAHAM-LOW TEAM.

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YOURS EVER, CY, END TEXT. VANCE

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY: IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

S/S-O:MLINO

-----054485 092232Z /21

O 092150Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 6214

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117300

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 117300 SENT ACTION LONDON INFO LUSAKA
08 MAY 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117300

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

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IN THEIR RECENT COMMUNICATIONS TO PRESIDENT CARTER, NYERERE, KAUNDA AND OBASANJO TAKE THE POSITION THAT A MOMENTUM OF SORTS WAS DEVELOPED AT DAR ES SALAAM WHICH MUST BE BUILT UPON. THOUGH THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS OVERSTATE THE "CONCESSIONS" OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE BREADTH OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND NKOMO AND MUGABE, IT IS NEVERTHELESS IMPORTANT THAT WE UNDERTAKE SOME ACTIVITY QUICKLY TO RESPOND TO THEIR URGINGS. IN THIS REGARD, I AGREE THAT THE LOW/ GRAHAM COMBINATION REPRESENTS THE BEST WAY TO PURSUE OUR OBJECTIVE OF ARRANGING A MEETING OF ALL THE PARTIES AT THIS TIME. WE MUST CONTINUALLY, BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, CAST THEIR EFFORTS AS SETTING THE STAGE FOR AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING.

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
Film Number: D780195-0408
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From: STATE
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Subject: RHODESIA; SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO OWEN . PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO DAVID OWEN IN RESPONSE TO OWEN'S LETTER TO HIM
TAGS: PDEV, PSDC, RH, UK, (OWEN, DAVID)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f3ac2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Sheryl P. Walter
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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